

Clam Season Changes (WAC 220-56-350):

Belfair State Park:

Current Regulation: CLOSED

Proposed Regulation: Open year-round.

Department of Health removed health restrictions on much of this beach last year, but too late for clam population surveys to be performed. A joint state-tribal clam population assessment was performed this summer, providing the biomass data needed to open this beach for recreational harvest.

Fort Flagler State Park:

Current Regulation: Open April 1 through July 15.

Proposed Regulation: Open April 1 through June 30.

Seasons have been extended for the last three years in a row as clam biomass increased, but this year's survey showed the clam resource had decreased. A small negotiated trade with Tribes will permit the shortened season proposed above.

Kitsap Memorial:

Current Regulation: May 15 through June 15.

Proposed Regulation: May 15 through June 30.

A small negotiated trade with Tribes will permit a two-week extension of the clam season. State Parks has endorsed this extension.

Point Whitney Tidelands (excluding Lagoon):

Current Regulation: Open March 1 through July 31.

Proposed Regulation: Open March 1 through May 15.

Increased effort last year resulted in an overharvest of the state share of clams. The resulting state share of clams for 2007 will require a shortened season. A negotiated trade with tribes allows the shortened season proposed above.

Point Whitney Lagoon:

Current Regulation: Open August 1 through August 31.

Proposed Regulation: Open May 15 through June 30.

The earlier season opening continues the trend of having the Lagoon open immediately after the Tidelands close. A small negotiated trade with tribes allows for a two-week extension of the season.

Rendsland Creek:

Current Regulation: Open January 1 through May 31.

Proposed Regulation: Open January 1 through June 15.

A negotiated trade with the Skokomish Tribe allows a two-week extension of the clam season.

Triton Cove Tidelands:

Current Regulation: Open July 1 through August 15.

Proposed Regulation: Open July 1 through September 30.

Clamming effort has decreased on this beach, which is primarily used for oysters. As a result, the clam resource can support a 1.5-month extension of the season.

West Dewatto (DNR 44-A):

Current Regulation: Open January 1 through May 31.

Proposed Regulation: CLOSED.

The state clam share on this small beach was overharvested in 2006, resulting in no state share for 2007. We have enhanced the beach with Manila clam seed, and keeping this small beach closed for a year will improve survival and growth of the planted clam seed.

Oyster Season Changes (WAC 220-56-380):

Cushman Park:

Current Regulation: Open May 1 through May 31.

Proposed Regulation: Open March 1 through June 30.

Last year's short oyster season at this beach was the result of an improperly performed tribal oyster survey that undercounted juvenile oysters. This summer WDFW performed the survey according to established methods and the result is a longer sport season.

Fort Flagler State Park:

Current Regulation: Open April 1 through July 15.

Proposed Regulation: Open April 1 through June 30.

Oyster season should coincide with the clam season on this beach.

Kitsap Memorial State Park:

Current Regulation: Open May 15 through July 15.

Proposed Regulation: Open May 15 through July 31.

Our oyster enhancement with cluster oysters has been very successful, and justifies a two-week extension of the sport season. This extension has been approved by State Parks.